

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application.

Status Of The Claims

Claims 1, 2, 6-11, 14-18, 21 and 24 are pending in this application. Independent claims 1, 10, 11 and 21 have been amended, which are supported by the present specification and Figures. Thus, no new matter has been added. Also, claims 3-5, 12, 13, 19, 20, 22 and 23 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Drawing Objection

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for the reason that the limitation of "a size of the plurality of convex portions increases with increasing distance from the light source" is not shown in the drawings.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended by the Examiner during the telephone discussions on March 12, 2010. During the discussions, the Examiner stated that although a Supplemental Reply dated November 4, 2009 was on the record, it was not entered due to a late filing beyond more than one week of the filed Amendment of October 14, 2009 and thus, the Examiner has maintained drawing objection.

To address this objection, Applicant attaches hereto Fig. 4B for illustrating the above limitation. Fig. 4B is supported by at least Fig. 4A and page 6, lines 11-12 of the present specification. Also, the relevant descriptions are added at page 6 of the present specification without adding new matter.

Accordingly, the requirement for an illustration of "wherein a size of the plurality of convex portions increases with increasing distance from the light source" is respectfully satisfied, and reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are therefore respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-2, 6-9, 11, 14-18, 21 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shinji et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,259,854 (hereinafter "Shinji") in view of Ishikawa et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,575,549 (hereinafter "Ishikawa"). Also, claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Funamoto, European Patent Publication No. 0,878,720 (hereinafter "Funamoto") in view of Ishikawa.

These rejections are respectfully traversed. Complete discussion of the Examiner's rejections is set forth in the Office Action, and is not being repeated here.

Shinji in view of Ishikawa

Claim 1 of the present invention, as amended, is not obvious over the applied references in that claim 1 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "... a light directing member for directing incident light from the light source toward the reflector outwardly along an orthogonal direction, the light directing member including, an upper surface and a lower surface parallel to each other, the lower surface having a plurality of convex portions extending from the lower surface, each of the convex portions having a substantially planar surface which is substantially parallel to the lower surface and a side surface connecting the planar surface and the lower surface," However, none of the applied references teach or suggest at least the

above features of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 as well as claims 2 and 6-9 depending therefrom are allowable over the applied references.

Claim 11 of the present invention, as amended, is not obvious over the applied references in that claim 11 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "... a light directing member for directing incident light from the light source toward the display panel, the light directing member having an upper surface and a lower surface parallel to each other, the lower surface having a plurality of convex portions, each having a substantially planar surface which is substantially parallel to the lower surface and a side surface connecting the planar surface and the lower surface," However, the applied references do not teach or suggest at least the above features of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 as well as claims 14-18 depending therefrom are allowable over the applied references.

Claim 21 of the present invention, as amended, is not obvious over the applied references in that claim 21 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "... a light directing device located above the reflector and adjacent to the light source to direct light from the light source to the reflector outwardly along an orthogonal direction such that a light distribution of light directed by the light directing device is substantially uniform along the length of the reflector, and such that the directed light is substantially perpendicular to the reflector, and the light directing device includes an upper surface, a lower surface parallel to the upper surface and a plurality of portions each extending from the lower surface toward the reflector at a 90° angle such that the light reflected outwardly along an orthogonal direction to the liquid crystal display device is uniform, wherein each portion includes a planar surface which is substantially parallel to the lower surface," However, none of the applied references teach or suggest at least the above features of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 21 as well as claim 24 depending therefrom, are allowable over the applied references.

As discussed above, the present invention is not obvious over the applied references individually or in combination. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection are respectfully requested.

Funamoto in view of Ishikawa

Claim 10 of the present invention, as amended, is not obvious over the applied references in that claim 10 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "... a light directing member for directing incident light from the light source toward the display panel, the light directing member having an upper surface and a lower surface parallel to each other, the lower surface having a plurality of convex portions, each having a substantially planar surface which is substantially parallel to the lower surface and a side surface connecting the planar surface and the lower surface," However, the applied references fail to teach or suggest at least the above features of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 10 is allowable over the applied references.

Therefore, the present invention is not rendered obvious over the applied references individually or in combination. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant believes that the application is placed in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Esther H. Chong, Registration No. 40,953, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

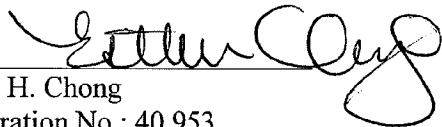
Application No. 09/589,881
Reply dated March 15, 2010
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Docket No. 3430-0105P

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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Attachment: Replacement sheets of Figs. 3, 4A, 4B and 5